

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, December 11, 2024

## Slow



Blog readers will recall that UCOP sponsored an independent report on the UCLA encampment and related responses and developments that came out in mid-November. The report was heavy on organization chart rearrangement and light on analyzing what happened and who was to blame. Nonetheless, the report was certainly an important and newsworthy event. We took

note of it at the time as did the outside news media.\*

So here's a puzzle. The [Daily Bruin](#)'s article on the report did not come out until last weekend (Dec. 7).\*\* And it quoted only the usual suspects at UCLA who favored the encampment. Surely, there is a range of opinions available on campus.\*\*\* Why the delay? And, if there was to be a delay, why not use the time to provide a much more detailed analysis of the report with opinions from a wide range of viewpoints?

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\*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/11/but-apart-from-that.html>.

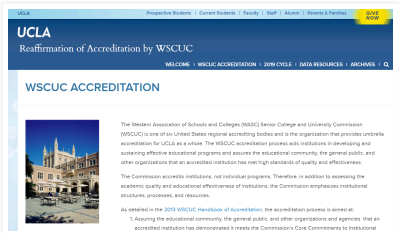
\*\*<https://dailybruin.com/2024/12/07/report-analyzes-officials-roles-regarding-encampment-response-proposes-reforms>.

\*\*\*Readers will recall the failed attempt to censure then-chancellor Block at the Academic Senate and the many viewpoints expressed in that debate.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:35 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

## WSCUC & DEI



From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *After months of rhetoric from President-elect Donald Trump attacking diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives—as well as threats to “fire” accreditors—the Western Association of Schools and Colleges’ Senior College and University Commission is considering dropping DEI language from its standards.*

*Some critics see the move as an effort to avoid a showdown with the incoming Trump administration over DEI. But the accreditor argues it is simply refining its language to better emphasize student outcomes, in the process dropping a term that has become loaded and therefore distracting.*

*The proposed changes, published on the WSCUC website, show the accreditor is considering dropping the phrase “diversity, equity and inclusion” and replacing it with “success for all students.” A side-by-side comparison indicates the DEI phrasing could be removed from four current standards.*

*The accreditor is accepting comments on the proposed revisions through Wednesday; the commission will decide whether and when to implement the change on Dec. 17...*

Full story at:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/accreditation/2024/12/09/western-accreditor-looks-drop-dei-language-standards>.

Note: As the image shows, WSCUC is the accreditor for UCLA: <https://wscuc.ucla.edu/wscuc-accreditation/>

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:40 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, UCLA

### The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands](#)
- [We Oppose Deprofessionalizing Librarians](#)
- [We Oppose AB-1418's Inadequate Protection from the Harms of Facial Recognition Tech](#)
- [We Oppose SB-1287's Restrictions on Protected Speech](#)

### Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 9. BONFIRE OF THE KNOWLEDGES \(PART 4\): Interpretation as Counterpower - 12/31/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 3: Letter from Current and Former Members of the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to MLA Executive Director and Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/30/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 2: Letter from former members of the MLA Executive Council to Current Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/29/2024](#)

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### Search This Blog

### UC Faculty Associations

- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
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- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

### Other Faculty Organizations

- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

### Topics

UC (1893) politics (1773) UC Regents (1765) health care (1319) State Budget (1214) governor (1060) UC budget crisis (917) UC-Berkeley (854) diversity (659) pension (644) pensions (588) tuition (519)

Lawsuit

The minor/trans issue comes to UC and UCLA. Note that St. Francis hospital in San Francisco is being acquired by UC-San Francisco. So it acquires this lawsuit as part of the takeover. The plaintiff is a UCLA student.

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):  
*One day after the Supreme Court heard arguments over states' ability to ban gender-affirming care for minors, a 20-year-old UCLA student sued two California doctors, saying they inappropriately rushed her "down a life-altering ... and irreversibly damaging" gender transition beginning at age 12.*

*The lawsuit, filed [last] Thursday by Kaya Clementine Breen in Los Angeles County Superior Court, argues that Dr. Johanna Olson-Kennedy, who runs the largest transgender youth clinic in the U.S. as the medical director of the Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, diagnosed Breen with gender dysmorphia "mere minutes" into their first appointment, just after Breen had turned 12.*

*Olson-Kennedy "recommended surgical implantation of puberty blockers" at that initial meeting, the suit says. Over the next several years, Breen received puberty blockers and took hormones, and, at age 14, received a double mastectomy. The suit accuses Olson-Kennedy of concealing important information about the risks and impacts of the treatments and misrepresenting evidence about their efficacy. Olson-Kennedy has come under fire recently after she told the New York Times that she delayed releasing a widely anticipated study on the effects of puberty-blocking treatment on transgender youth because of the toxic political climate...*

*The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, also names San Francisco-based Dr. Scott Mosser and St. Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco as defendants, alleging that Mosser "rubber-stamped" Breen's double mastectomy...*

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/lawsuit-transgender-health-care-19964425.php>.

The lawsuit is at <https://www.scribd.com/document/801688949/Clementine-Breen-lawsuit>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#), [UC-San Francisco](#), [UCLA](#)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Coming soon to a university near you?



From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *Faculty at the cash-strapped Universities of Wisconsin System are pushing back against a proposed copyright policy they believe would cheapen the relationship between students and their professors and potentially allow artificial intelligence bots to replace faculty members. For decades, professors have designed and delivered their courses under a policy that says the 25-campus UW System "does not assert a property*

*interest in materials which result from the author's pursuit of traditional teaching, research, and scholarly activities." That includes course materials and syllabi, which faculty members own.*

*It's an arrangement faculty say is working, not only for themselves but for their students. But now the university is looking to upend that system, they say. Officials proposed a policy this fall that would give the university system the copyright of any instructional materials, including syllabi.*

*Under the proposed policy, which was first reported by The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel earlier this week, copyright ownership of "scholarly works," which includes lecture notes, course materials, recordings, journal articles and syllabi, would originate with the UW System, "but is then transferred to the author." However, the system's general counsel told faculty Nov. 22, "the UWs reserve a non-exclusive license to use syllabi in furtherance of its business needs and mission." ...*

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/artificial-intelligence/2024/12/06/wisconsin-professors-worry-ai-could-replace>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [copyright](#), [U of Wisconsin](#)

U of Michigan abandons DEI statements

[admissions](#) (502) [athletics](#) (471) [CSU](#) (387) [transportation](#) (373) [UC-Davis](#) (363) [online education](#) (336) [ucrp](#) (294) [audio](#) (287) [UCOP](#) (286) [uc retirement](#) (284) [new hotel-conference center](#) (282) [UC enrollment](#) (276) [traffic](#) (271) [enrollment](#) (248) [UC-San Diego](#) (234) [community colleges](#) (228) [LAO](#) (209) [UC-Irvine](#) (174) [fund raising](#) (160) [UC-Santa Cruz](#) (145) [UC-Santa Barbara](#) (144) [UC-San Francisco](#) (138) [faculty center](#) (136) [controller](#) (135) [ballot propositions](#) (132) [UC-Riverside](#) (129) [CalPERS](#) (120) [faculty pay](#) (102) [Master Plan](#) (101) [UC-Merced](#) (101) [Yudof](#) (89) [UCRS retirement](#) (60) [parking](#) (59) [privatization](#) (59) [Faculty Association at UCLA](#) (57) [CalSTRS](#) (50) [UC Berkeley](#) (33) [copyright](#) (29) [campus climate survey](#) (28) [UCRS](#) (21) [Michigan Model](#) (18) [UC Merced](#) (17) [uc funding](#) (16) [State Contribution](#) (14) [UCOF](#) (14) [Regents](#) (13) [faculty recruitment](#) (12) [UC pay](#) (7) [graduate education](#) (6) [UC San Diego](#) (5) [UCpolitics](#) (3) [teaching evaluation](#) (3) [UC Irvine](#) (2) [UC Santa Cruz](#) (2)

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2025 (2)
  - ▼ January (2)
    - The governor and the 4th quarter.
    - Our New Year's Day Offering

- 2024 (832)
- 2023 (828)
- 2022 (719)
- 2021 (710)
- 2020 (914)
- 2019 (671)
- 2018 (595)
- 2017 (666)
- 2016 (715)
- 2015 (765)
- 2014 (704)
- 2013 (776)
- 2012 (839)
- 2011 (738)
- 2010 (431)
- 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



From the [Detroit News](#): Diversity statements will no longer be used in University of Michigan faculty hiring, promotion and tenure, a controversial move some argue would remove "litmus tests" that restrict diversity of thought while diversity advocates criticized it as dishonest. Provost Laurie McCauley announced the decision Thursday based on a recommendation from a UM faculty working group to end diversity statements. The move by one of the nation's leading research

universities followed actions to end the practice at other prestigious universities across the nation and came amid a backlash against diversity, equity and inclusion programs led by President-elect Donald Trump and conservative critics.

UM regents are also considering changes to the university's DEI initiatives, but they emphasized during their Thursday meeting they would not cut programs benefiting students, such as free tuition and college preparation programs. They made the statements after students from the Black Student Union and other groups protested on Thursday and earlier this week about feared cuts in the university's DEI programs.

Diversity statements are required of faculty job candidates to explain what experiences they would bring to the university along with how their scholarship and teaching would advance diversity. The statements help search committees identify applicants "who have professional skills, experience and/or willingness to engage in activities that would enhance campus diversity and equity efforts," according to a University of California at San Diego statement referenced by UM's Center for Research on Learning & Teaching.

UM's elimination of diversity statements is a first step that many are watching as DEI programs have become entrenched in many institutions, said Frederick Lynch, an emeritus associate professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in California... "It will mean if Michigan can do it, just about anybody can do it," Lynch said about the elimination. "But it could also be a long battle in courts." ...

Full story at <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2024/12/05/um-to-no-longer-use-diversity-statements/76773567007/>.

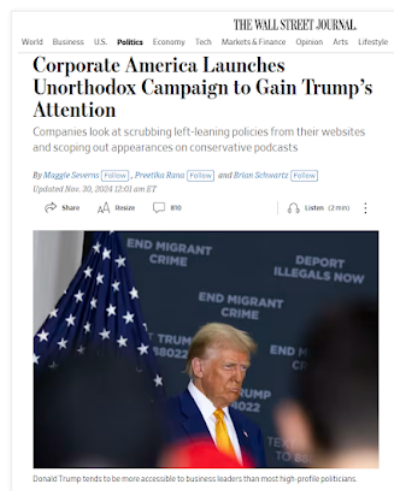
As we noted some time ago concerning this issue at UC, it has connections to the **UC loyalty oath controversy of the 1950s**, required statements saying that the employee was not a communist. Various court decisions in response to challenges to the original oath watered it down to a vague and vacuous agreement to uphold the state and federal constitutions, whatever that means. See:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/08/more-on-loyalty-oaths.html>; and  
<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/08/uc-history-loyalty-oath.html>.

It seems likely (to yours truly) that such watering down - rather than a Regental intervention as at the U of Michigan - will be the path followed at UC. That's a prediction, of course. So far at least, direct court challenges in California have not produced verdicts favoring the plaintiffs. At UCLA most recently, the EDI office (UCLA's version of DEI) has been restructured and renamed "Inclusive Excellence":

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/10/ucla-edi-office-dei-elsewhere-being.html>.

Finally, apart from the libertarian/free speech/academic freedom approach, there is this:



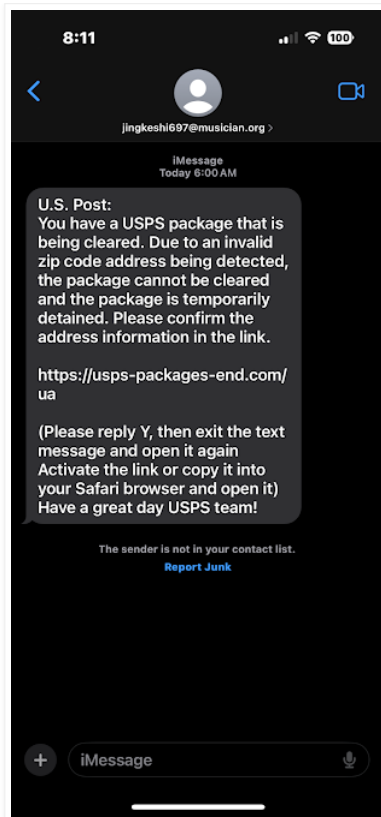
University leaders read the same tea leaves as CEOs.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:







Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [U of Michigan](#), [UC](#), [UCLA](#)

Monday, December 9, 2024

Of course you know better..



...than to respond to this message. The Postal Service doesn't contact you in this way, and certainly not from the weird address shown.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [6:50 PM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [email fraud](#), [miscellaneous](#)

And now for something completely different



UCLA in the 1940s. Click on link below:

University of Southern California at Los Ange...



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eipRvAphNpg>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:       

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